

February 2, 2012

The Honorable Gail Haines, Chair
House Committee on Health Policy
Michigan House of Representatives
PO Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

RE: House Bill 5315

Dear Representative Haines:

Our organization's 1,500 members include providers of supports and services to persons living in licensed adult foster care homes. Many of these persons are individuals with disabilities who receive their supports and services through the public mental health system.

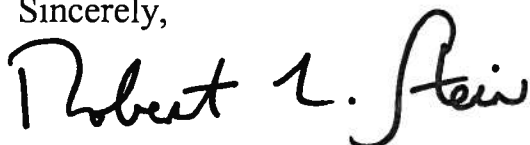
As currently drafted, House Bill 5315 would amend the Mental Health Code to provide that video surveillance may be conducted only in a psychiatric hospital for purposes of safety, security, and quality improvement. Our concern is that House Bill 5315 could be interpreted to prohibit video surveillance in any other setting in which persons receive mental health services.

A substantial number of licensed adult foster care homes use video cameras to ensure accountability in the provision of services by maximizing the safety and security of people residing in these homes. We are sensitive to the importance of providing each individual with privacy. We recognize that adult foster care homes should be "home-like" in nature. At the same time, the proper use of video cameras in "common areas" is appropriate from our perspective in an effort to provide a safe and secure environment for people with disabilities. Again, we understand the sensitivity of the video surveillance issue.

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Michigan Assisted Living Association recommends that House Bill 5315 be modified as necessary so as not to limit video surveillance to psychiatric hospitals. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on the bill. Please contact our organization if any additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert L. Stein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

ROBERT L. STEIN
General Counsel

Rep. Mike Callton, Majority Vice-Chair
Rep. Paul Opsommer
Rep. Kenneth Kurtz
Rep. Wayne Schmidt
Rep. Mike Shirkey
Rep. Thomas Hooker
Rep. Matt Huuki
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